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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

30 June 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Riverside County - Dozens of Arrests Made, Weapons Seized in Riverside County 'Takedown'

(U) Authorities announced yesterday the arrest of 47 people and the seizures or undercover purchases of 77 firearms during a seven-month crackdown—Operation Valley Vigilance—on gang and weapons activity in Hemet and the San Jacinto area. The series of raids represents the largest single-day joint takedown in the history of southwest Riverside County, according to law enforcement. SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Press Enterprise

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Connecticut - Months-Long Operation Nets 20 Kilos Heroin, Fentanyl Packaged for Streets

(U) Hartford – Authorities announced yesterday the dismantling of a drug trafficking organization, bringing an end to a months-long investigation in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Officers raided a dozen different locations and seized 20 kilograms of heroin and fentanyl that was packaged in hundreds of thousands of individual bags. The seizure was one of the largest in recent Connecticut history, according to an official. A hydraulic press, often used by drug traffickers for packaging heroin, was also seized during the raids.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Hartford Courant News

(U) Ohio - Man Accused of Plotting Attacks in US Pleaded Guilty in 2015

(U) Columbus – Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud—charged with plotting to kill military members in the United States—pleaded guilty in August 2015 to supporting terrorism, according to court documents released yesterday. The US Department of Justice said the plea was previously sealed because of an ongoing investigation. Court documents described how Mohamud obtained a passport to travel to Greece, but instead went to Syria for training, and then returned to the United States.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Associated Press

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Drug Syndicate 'Used Drones to Monitor Police'

(U) Melbourne – An international drug syndicate used drones to run counter-surveillance on police in a failed bid to import 92 kilograms of cocaine—with an estimated street value worth of \$23 million—into Australia yesterday. The contraband was hidden within a shipment container on a vessel coming from Panama. Among the other items seized were cash and aerial drones. The operation shows how international drug syndicates are becoming more sophisticated, according to an official. SOURCE: 29 June 2017, BBC News

(U) England – Woman Held at Heathrow on Suspicion of Preparing Terrorist Attack

(U) London – A woman was detained at Heathrow Airport yesterday evening on suspicion of preparing acts of terrorism, according to police. The woman was arrested after she arrived from Istanbul, Turkey, in what officers referred to as a 'Syria-related' arrest. A man was arrested at Heathrow in May on

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suspicion of terror-related crime as he stepped off a plane from Istanbul.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Independent

(U) France – Man Tries to Drive Car into Crowd in Front of French Mosque

(U) Paris – A man was arrested yesterday after trying to drive a car into a crowd in front of a mosque in the Paris suburb of Creteil. The man's vehicle did not reach the crowd because of barriers in front of the mosque, according to police. The suspect's motives are unclear, but police are investigating the incident. An individual was arrested last week in London for successfully driving a van into a crowd of worshippers leaving a mosque, and was charged with terrorism-related murder and attempted murder.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Reuters

(U) Iran – Khamenei's Representative Says ISIS's Baghdadi 'Definitely Dead'

(U) Tehran — A representative of the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced yesterday that ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was "definitely dead." Cleric Shirazi made the claim without elaborating further, and Iran's state news agency, IRNA, later updated the news item, omitting Shirazi's quote of Baghdadi's death. Russia claimed earlier this month its forces killed the ISIS leader with an air strike, but Washington said it had no information to corroborate such claims.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Reuters

(U) Mexico – Arrests in Michoacan Trigger Retaliation

(U) Zimanca – Three people linked to a criminal organization were arrested in Zimanca yesterday on charges of possession of firearms, explosives, and drugs. The arrests sparked a violent retaliation from an unidentified gang, who blocked roadways with burning vehicles—including a bus—and attacked stores with Molotov cocktails. State police and the Army were deployed to resolve the situation and removed the roadblocks, while the fire department put out the fires. Three arrests were made. SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Mexico News Daily

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico - Turmoil in Mexico's Criminal World Intensifying Violence in Border Territory

(U) Tamaulipas – Power shifts within Mexico's major criminal groups has pushed violence to new peaks in recent months. The state of Tamaulipas is valuable territory to criminal groups because of its close proximity to the US border. Homicides in the border city of Reynosa surged in May, appearing to have been driven in large part by an internal feud following the death of a local cartel leader, according to a former US official.

SOURCE: 29 June 2017, Business Insider

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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